

## **VA GROUND WATER PROTECTION STEERING COMMITTEE**

**[www.deq.virginia.gov/gwpsc](http://www.deq.virginia.gov/gwpsc)**

The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be held on  
**Tuesday, May 20, 2008 from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

**We will meet in the first floor conference room at DEQ's  
downtown office, 629 E Main Street, Richmond VA 23219.**

For more information contact Mary Ann Massie at 804-698-4042 or  
email [mamassie@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:mamassie@deq.virginia.gov)

### **Meeting Summary: Tuesday, March 18, 2008**

Steering Committee members in attendance:

Mary Ann Massie, Department of Environmental Quality, Water Resources Div.  
Neil Zahradka, Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Div.  
Jutta Schneider, Department of Environmental Quality, Waste Division  
Scott Johnson, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
Steve Pellei, Department of Health  
Erin James, Virginia Tech/Cooperative Extension  
Elizabeth Moran, Department of Business Assistance  
Grier Mills, Department of General Services/Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services  
George Harlow, US Geological Survey

Guests:

Curtis Consolvo, GeoResources, Inc.  
Christopher Krambis, Schnabel Engineering  
Anthony Creech, Resource International  
Meade Anderson, DEQ Waste Division  
Liza Fleeson, VDACS Office of Pesticide Services  
Wayne Surles, VDACS Office of Pesticide Services  
Lisa Ochsenhirt, City of Richmond  
Stephanie Garman, Olver Inc.  
Gayl Fowler, Garfield Parker, and Vashti Parker – SAIF Water Wells Inc.

Agencies not in attendance:

Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy, Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, and Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Neil Zahradka, DEQ's Office of Land Application Programs, gave an informative overview of his group's responsibilities. In 2007 when the biosolids were transferred from VDH to DEQ it was decided to group the biosolids program, the concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) program, and the water reclamation and reuse program into one office. Twenty FTEs (full time equivalent positions) were assigned to the biosolids program; fourteen have been filled. Neil noted that Nutrient Management Plans (NMP) are now required for all biosolids applications. We are moving toward requiring NMPs for application of poultry litter as well. Biosolids are applied to about 3% of Virginia farmland; poultry litter is used by Virginia farmers more often than biosolids. 50% of biosolids applied in Virginia come from the Blue Plains wastewater treatment plant in D.C. Neil reviewed the two classes of biosolids and noted a pretreatment program at the wastewater treatment plant is essential to ensuring high quality biosolids.

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/vpa/>

Neil provided the following contacts for his program:

Biosolids: Bryan Cawthorn, Christina Wood, and Charlie Swanson (visit the VPA web page above and click on sewage sludge/biosolids, scroll down to program contacts for areas of expertise, emails and phone #s)

CAFO: Betsy Bowles [bkbowles@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:bkbowles@deq.virginia.gov) 804-698-4059

Water Reclamation and Reuse: Valerie Rourke [varourke@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:varourke@deq.virginia.gov) 804-698-4158

Neil can be reached at [nrzahradka@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:nrzahradka@deq.virginia.gov) 804-698-4102

## **AGENCY UPDATES:**

### **Department of Environmental Quality**

Mary Ann Massie noted budget concerns within the Agency. Additionally she recommended that members and non members access the Ground Water Protection Council's "Ground Water Report to the Nation: A Call to Action" at [www.gwpc.org](http://www.gwpc.org) This is an important document that will shape ground water programs at the national level.

The Ground Water Festivals are in the works. The first one, hosted by the Clinch Valley Soil and Water Conservation District, will be held April 22 at the Russell County Fairgrounds in Lebanon VA.

Mary Ann thanked everyone who contributed to the GWPSC Annual Report. The report is available on line and hard copies should be available in the near future. She noted plans are on track to issue the "wellhead protection implementation Request for Proposals to local governments" in July. This effort is funded cooperatively through DEQ's Clean Water Act grant and the set aside portion to VDH's Safe Drinking Water Act revolving loan dollars.

## **Department of Agriculture and Consumers Services**

Scott Johnson noted budgets cuts, particularly in the Office of Farmland Preservation. Their ability to implement "Purchase of Development Rights" or PDRs for Virginia farmland will be affected; this was part of Governor Kaine's effort to conserve rural space.

Scott noted the Department of Charitable Gaming will become part of VDACS. Wayne Surles reported on his upcoming retirement. Liza Fleeson noted EPA has distributed a list of pesticides of concern and asked States to identify and actively manage pesticides of concern for their State. Liza noted that VDACS does not routinely sample for the presence of pesticides so they will be mining water quality data from other agencies that have collected pesticide data. They are currently putting together a strategy to move forward with this project.

Liza reported on the success of their Pesticide Disposal Program and their Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program. Their web page has information on the locations of their collection activities in 2008 as well as news that they will be accepting "mini bulks" in the container recycling program. These programs are funded entirely with non federal funds.

<http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/pesticides/disposal.shtml>

<http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/pesticides/recycling.shtml>

## **US Geological Survey**

George Harlow noted the following USGS report is available on line:

### ***Private Domestic-Well Characteristics and the Distribution of Domestic Withdrawals among Aquifers in the Virginia Coastal Plain***

USGS Scientific Investigations Report 2007-5250

<http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2007/5250/>

George also encouraged members and non members to visit DEQ's Office of Ground Water Characterization's web page,

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/gwcharacterization/homepage.html>, as all of the County Ground Water Reports have been scanned and are available for downloading.

He noted they are installing new research stations in north central Southampton County, northern Virginia Beach, and Bedford County.

George noted a 3% cut in their federal budget. At this time the majority of their funding (80%) is from contracts/cooperative projects.

## **Department of Business Assistance**

Elizabeth Moran joined the group following Jim McKean's retirement last year. DBA's role is to assist new and existing Virginia businesses with workforce training, financial planning, and information services. They too are experiencing budget issues. She noted there is a study underway to examine realignment with DBA and Economic Development Partnership. The Economic Development Partnership works externally to bring businesses into the Commonwealth.

## **Department of General Services, Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services**

Grier Mills echoed State budget concerns. They anticipate closing their Abingdon satellite office by June 30 due to budget cuts. He noted staffing shortages as well but reported on issuance of their Drinking Water Certification Program's newsletter to 100 out of State and 140 in State certified laboratories. DCLS continues to work with VDH Office of Drinking Water as they implement Safe Drinking Water Act programs. He noted the lab is moving toward full implementation of their information system – their plan for electronic management of all data. And Grier proudly noted Virginia is the first state to have electronically transmitted influenza data to the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta.

## **Department of Health**

Steve Pellei expressed budget concerns as well. He noted they are working cooperatively with DCLS on electronic transfer of drinking water data. Steve noted recent press coverage on drinking water contamination by pharmaceuticals and personal care products. This is an emerging field and one that is very important to VDH. He welcomed Stephanie Garman from Olver Inc. Stephanie is part of the team working with small ground water based systems for wellhead protection implementation. Stephanie provided an update on their latest outreach activities.

## **Virginia Cooperative Extension**

Erin James joined us via conference call from Virginia Tech. She is the new coordinator for their household water quality education program and Master Well Owners Network (MWON). They received a three year USDA grant to kick start the household water quality education program which will begin in 2008 in Rockingham, Culpeper, Fauquier, Caroline, King George, Dinwiddie, Prince George Counties, and possibly Dickenson and Buchanan Counties. Additionally the MWON is already underway with training offered for extension agents. Other volunteers will be targeted at a later date.

Erin's contact information is [ejames@vt.edu](mailto:ejames@vt.edu) 540-231-9058

## **Department of Housing and Community Development**

Wyatt Little provided the following updates on their grant awards:

1. March 2008: **Wise County**, \$500,000 transfer from Water Quality Improvement Fund for Waste Water Treatment Facility in Wise County (Budget)
2. February 2008: **Mecklenburg County** \$650,000 from Va. Community Dev. Block Grant (VCDBG) Funds install 54,000 linear feet 12-inch waterline
3. October 2007: **Southern Rivers Watershed Enhancement Program Grant Awards**

<b>Wastewater Treatment System Construction Grants</b>		
<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Locality</b>	<b>SRWEP Funding Amount</b>
Long Forks <b>Sewer Project</b>	Town of Clintwood	\$332,116
Cassell's Chapel Clinic Wastewater Extension <b>Project</b>	Town of Dungannon	\$465,987
Town of Jarratt <b>Sewer</b> Rehabilitation and Treatment Plant Upgrade	County of Greensville	\$1,000,000
St. Charles to Pennington Gap Regional <b>Sewer</b> Interconnect Extension Phase I	Town of Pennington Gap	\$1,000,000
Andrew Lewis Place Sanitary <b>Sewer</b> Expansion	County of Roanoke	\$797,940
Smyth County Groseclose/Exit 54 <b>Sewer Project</b>	County of Smyth	\$1,000,000
Route 102/Falls Mills Road Water and <b>Sewer Project</b>	County of Tazewell	\$72,700
Baptist Valley East <b>Sewer</b> Extension <b>Project</b> , Phase I	County of Tazewell	\$927,300
<b>Bold Camp Sewer Project</b>	County of Wise	\$489,482
Roanoke River Regional Wastewater Upgrade and Expansion	County of Mecklenburg	\$1,000,000
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$7,085,525</b>

<b>Managed On-Site Construction Grant</b>		
<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Locality</b>	<b>SRWEP Funding Amount</b>
Lower Exeter Wastewater Line Extension	Town of Appalachia	\$99,214
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$99,214</b>

<b>Planning Grants</b>	
<b>Locality</b>	<b>SRWEP Funding Amount</b>

Town of Brookneal	\$20,000
City of Galax	\$20,000
New River Valley Planning District Commission	\$150,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$190,000</b>

Our guests from SAIF Water Well Inc. provided a handout with their presentation to the Expert Panel to Study Biosolids. The handout was made available to anyone interested.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2008.**